

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENTI 00806 050426Z

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 CPR-01 IO-13 /081 W

-----051015Z 008555 /14

R 050400Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8118

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 0806

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PDIP PGOV LA

SUBJECT: VICE CHAIRMAN OF LAO SUPREME PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY DIES

1. SITHONE KOMMADAM, VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE SUPREME PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY AND ONE OF THE LPDR'S "FOUR HEROES", DIED MAY 1 AT THE OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCED AGE OF 67 (HE WAS 71 ACCORDING TO OTHER SOURCES) OF COMPLICATIONS OF LIVER CANCER AND TUBERCULOSIS. HE WAS THE SON OF ONG KOMMADAM, WHO LED THE REBELLION OF THE SOUTHERN LAO THEUNG OR "KHA" AGAINST THE FRENCH FROM 1915 TO ABOUT 1937. IMPRISONED BY THE FRENCH IN THE 1930'S AND 1940'S AND BY THE PHOUI SANANIKONE GOVERNMENT IN 1959-1960, HE REPRESENTED THE "KHA" IN THE LPDR/LPRP SCHEME OF THINGS AS FAYDANG LOBLIAYAO REPRESENTS THE MEOS.

2. LPRP SECRETARY GENERAL/LPDR PRIME MINISTER KAYSONE PHOMVIHANE PROCLAIMED A FIVE DAY MOURNING PERIOD INCLUDING A LYING IN STATE AT THE SUPREME PEOPLE'S
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ASSEMBLY BUILDING WITH VISITS BY MASS ORGANIZATIONS, GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS, ASSOCIATIONS OF FOREIGNERS AND THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS. WE PRESENTED A WREATH AND, ALONG WITH EMBASSIES OF INDIA, VIET-NAM, WEST GERMANY, GREAT BRITAIN, AUSTRALIA, BURMA, CAMBODIA, FRANCE, JAPAN, MONGOLIA AND PRESUMABLY SOME OTHERS, HALF-MASTED FLAGS FOR MOURNING PERIOD. SOVIET, CHINESE, THAI AND

PHILIPPINES EMBASSIES DID NOT HALF-MAST.

3. OFFICIAL LAO PRESS BIOGRAPHY PUBLISHED MAY 3 TOOK THE USUAL SWIPES AT FRENCH COLONIALIST IMPERIALISTS, JAPANESE FASCISTS AND AMERICAN IMPERIALISTS.

4. COMMENT: SITHONE KOMMADAM'S POSITION WAS OF ONLY NOMINAL IMPORTANCE. THE CHIEF SIGNIFICANCE OF HIS DEATH IS THAT, SINCE HE WAS A CONTEMPORARY OF SOUPHAN-OUVONG, NOUHAK, PHOUMI VONGVICHIT AND SISOMPHAN LOVANSAY, IT IS A REMINDER THAT THE ORIGINAL PARTY LEADERSHIP IS GROWING OLDER.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL LEADERS, DEATHS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 05-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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TAGS: PINT, PDIP, PGOV, CDES, LA, (SITHONE KOMMADAM)
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